



MEDIA RELEASE  
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## FIGHT AGAINST CHILDREN'S CANCER GETS A SHOT IN THE ARM

Young cancer and leukaemia sufferers, such as Jade Cooper from Coolgardie, are facing a better future, thanks to the Perth-based Children's Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation (CLCRF).

Twenty years ago, children who suffered from leukaemia had only a 20 per cent chance of survival. Today that figure is 80 per cent, largely due to the advances in research made by organisations such as the CLCRF.

To help fund the CLCRF's important work, Wellard Rural Exports this week presented the Foundation with a \$60,000 cheque.

Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald said the funds donated were from donors and bidders at the Wellard 2007 Christmas Party Charity Auction, and then matched dollar for dollar by Wellard.

"When you hear of stories such as Jade's, who was diagnosed with cancer in January, hasn't been back to her hometown of Coolgardie since, and has had to undergo a number of chemotherapy programs at the age of just 14, it hits home just how important the CLCRF's research is," Mr Meerwald said.

"Their work won't just help children of today, but future generations across WA, Australia and the globe."

Jade, a student at the Christian Aboriginal Parent-Directed School in Coolgardie, was diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma of the brain in mid-January, and is undergoing treatment at Princess Margaret Hospital. She moves from treatment at the hospital to the nearby Ronald McDonald House to recuperate and then back to PMH for more treatment.

The CLCRF recently announced a one million dollar research program to improve methods to diagnose children with cancer using genetic tests and computers fast enough to process thousands of genes at once.

CLCRF executive officer Andrea Alexander said that could not occur without the generous support from companies such as Wellard.

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“Wellard has been a significant contributor to the Foundation for the past few years and we sincerely thank the company for its support, which will help make a difference to the lives of countless children and their families,” she said.

Mr Meerwald said the donation to the CLCRF was part of Wellard’s ongoing commitment to contribute to both the economy and society.

*Photo Attached*

*Photo caption: Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald and executive assistant Lisa Maclean with cancer patient Jade Cooper and Children’s Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation Executive Officer Andrea Alexander.*

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## **Background – Wellard Rural Exports**

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for more than 25 years. Based in Fremantle, the company’s operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed and high fibre milling, road transport, feedlot facilities and modern shipping.

Wellard has priority access to the most modern fleet of livestock carriers on the ocean through its association with Siba Ships. The company’s flagship carrier, the MV Becrux, is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 18,000 cattle from Australia to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

For more information visit: [www.wellardgroup.com.au](http://www.wellardgroup.com.au)